

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced his nominees to the U.S. service academies for the Class of 2013. After a thorough application process in which his office reviewed numerous applications, Hinchey selected 16 local high school students whom he believes would excel at the U.S. Air Force, Merchant Marine, Military, and Naval Academies.

"It is an honor for me to nominate these 16 bright, talented leaders from our area to our nation's service academies," Hinchey said. "These young men and women have an extraordinary future ahead of them and I am very confident that they have they will serve our country with distinction. Our military academies have a long record of producing some of our country's finest leaders and I believe that this group of students will expand that record. I wish all of them the very best with the rest of the application process.

The selection process for the nominees was based on each student's scholastic record, physical fitness, extracurricular activities, professional recommendations and a personal interview. The process is highly competitive and the admissions departments of the military academies solely determine decisions on final acceptance.

The names of Hinchey's nominees, by academy, are as follows:

U.S. Military Academy	U.S. Naval Academy	Zachary Ciurczak,
Kingston	Phoebe Kotlikoff, Ithaca	Andrew Galazzo, Walker
Valley	Richard Nagel, Middletown	David Geer,
Binghamton	Kyle M. Wise, Kingston	Opeyemi Ifafore,
Middletown	Joseph R. Kulp III, Vestal	U.S. Air Force Academy
Matthew Mulvihill, Middletown	Sebastian Constable, Cragmoor	Joy
Palmer, New Paltz	Joseph Hollway, Highland	Nicholas Peterson,
Saugerties	Thomas J. Riley III, Newburgh	U.S. Merchant Marine
Academy	Jordan A. Smith, Kerhonkson	Ursula Holm, Owego

Members of the House and Senate may nominate eligible candidates for appointments to the nation's service academies. Senators nominate applicants statewide, while representatives, such as Hinchey, nominate applicants only from their congressional district.

## **Hinchey Announces Military Academy Nominations;**

Monday, 15 December 2008 19:00

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Students who are interested in being nominated by Hinchey in the future should first contact the service academy of their choice in their junior year in high school and then request a nomination from the congressman's office shortly thereafter. For more information on the application process, students and parents are encouraged to visit Hinchey's website page on academy nominations at [www.house.gov/hinchey/services/nominations.shtml](http://www.house.gov/hinchey/services/nominations.shtml).